



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Office of the Inspector General – Licensing Division

Availability of Licensed Child Care in Minnesota

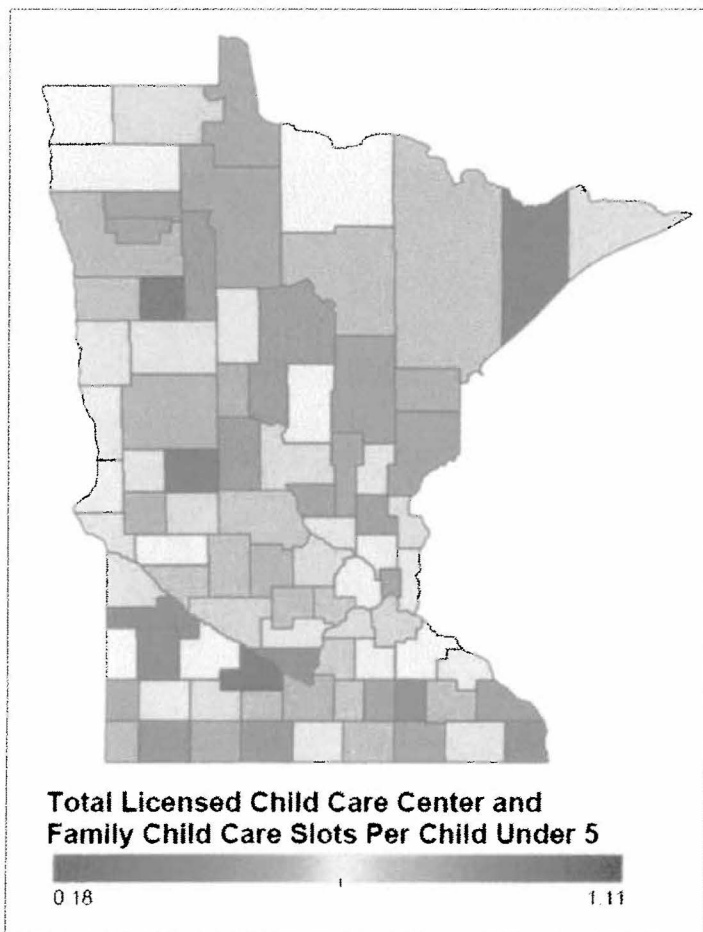
Fact Sheet | October 2016

Availability of Licensed Care Varies Across the State

It is important to consider the community's need for child care in the context of the statewide licensed capacity. Some parts of the state may have a greater need for child care based on the number of children living there. The map below combines US Census Bureau data with licensing data from DHS to illustrate the availability of licensed care in the context of relative need.

The analysis is based on children under age five which reflects the most obvious need for child care but does not capture all children in need of care. The analysis includes licensed child care centers and licensed family child care programs, but it does not capture the capacity of child care provided in license exempt, legal non-licensed or tribally licensed settings.

County Map of Licensed Child Care Slots per Child Under 5



Key Takeaways

Not enough slots Statewide there are 645 licensed care slots available for every 1,000 children under age five. Assuming every child under the age of 5 needed licensed child care at the same time, not enough licensed “slots” currently exist to meet this potential need. It is important to note, however, that some families prefer to use other, non-licensed forms of care. Both licensed and non-licensed settings are needed to meet the needs and preferences of all Minnesota families.

Availability varies geographically In general, the north central and northeastern parts of the state have lower availability of licensed child care slots, ranging from 180-600 slots per 1,000 children under age five. However, other counties in the northwest and south, south-central parts of the state fare much better with at least 800 slots per 1,000 children under age five.

Note: This analysis does not capture the family preferences for type of care, nor does it include the capacity of child care provided in legal, non-licensed and license-exempt settings like before and after school programs and family, friend and neighbor care.

